

To: Gray, David[gray.david@epa.gov]; Curry, Ron[Curry.Ron@epa.gov]
From: McGrath, Shaun
Sent: Wed 9/23/2015 6:56:35 PM
Subject: RE: Winter Discharge Treatment

Thanks. I talked to Nichole Distefano about it a little bit this morning and with Bennet's staffer yesterday.

From: Gray, David
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 12:55 PM
To: McGrath, Shaun; Curry, Ron
Subject: RE: Winter Discharge Treatment

Shaun,

Here is the bill language that Udall, Heinrich and Lujan have made public yesterday.

David

From: McGrath, Shaun
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 1:49 PM
To: Gray, David
Subject: RE: Winter Discharge Treatment

Got it David. I'll get Ostrander on it. Not sure we have but will find out.

From: Gray, David
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 12:48 PM
To: StClair, Christie; McGrath, Shaun; Deitz, Randy
Cc: Purchia, Liz; Distefano, Nichole; Ostrander, David; Braun, Richard; Sandoval, Joni; Way, Steven; Mills, Bethany; Reynolds, Thomas; Ackerman, Joyce; Vaught, Laura; Calanog, Steve; Card, Joan; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Russo, Rebecca; Hull, George; Smith, Roxanne

Subject: RE: Winter Discharge Treatment

Senator Heinrich's office would like to see photos of the treatment system if they are available.

David

From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 1:40 PM

To: McGrath, Shaun; Gray, David; Deitz, Randy

Cc: Purchia, Liz; Distefano, Nichole; Ostrander, David; Braun, Richard; Sandoval, Joni; Way, Steven; Mills, Bethany; Reynolds, Thomas; Ackerman, Joyce; Vaught, Laura; Calanog, Steve; Card, Joan; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Russo, Rebecca; Hull, George; Smith, Roxanne

Subject: Re: Winter Discharge Treatment

HQ will issue at 1:30 MTN/3:30 Eastern. Our GKM media list includes R8's list, but I don't mind reporters getting it twice.

Please note the changes below to the final release, to clarify weather conditions at the mine site.

Christie

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Sept. 23, 2015

EPA Announces Gold King Mine Water Treatment System for Winter 2015-16

(Washington, D.C.) -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that a portable, temporary treatment system will be located in Gladstone, CO to continue treating water discharged from the Gold King Mine during winter 2015-16. This system will replace temporary settling ponds constructed by the EPA in August 2015.

The transition to the portable treatment system is necessary as winter temperatures at the mine site (elevation 10,500 feet) can reach -20F, making it unsafe to manually treat water at the mine site. The schedule calls for the treatment system to be operational by Oct. 14, 2015. EPA's contractor, ER LLC, awarded a subcontract Sept. 22, 2015 to Alexco Environmental Group (US) Inc. to complete the work.

This system will treat the approximately 550 gallons per minute (gpm) of water that continue to flow from the mine, including the discharges related to ongoing work in the mine to stabilize conditions. The system is designed to handle up to 1,200 gpm. The objective of the treatment system is to neutralize the mine discharge and remove solids and metals. Although the Gold King Mine discharge is just one of many into Cement Creek, the treatment will remove a portion of the metal loading to Cement Creek.

The EPA continues to evaluate data to determine the impact of the Gold King Mine on water quality.

Additional information about EPA's Gold King Mine response: www.epa.gov/goldkingmine

R256

Christie St. Clair

US EPA Office of Public Affairs

c: 202-768-5780

From: McGrath, Shaun

Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:31 PM

To: StClair, Christie; Gray, David; Deitz, Randy

Cc: Purchia, Liz; Distefano, Nichole; Ostrander, David; Braun, Richard; Sandoval, Joni; Way, Steven; Mills, Bethany; Reynolds, Thomas; Ackerman, Joyce; Vaught, Laura; Calanog, Steve; Card, Joan; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Russo, Rebecca; Hull, George; Smith, Roxanne

Subject: RE: Winter Discharge Treatment

All,

We are cleared to move forward.

Rebecca, please commence the notifications of elected officials.

Laura, at 1:30 MST, issue the release to the media.

Thanks,

Shaun

From: StClair, Christie

Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2015 9:25 AM

To: Gray, David; McGrath, Shaun; Deitz, Randy

Cc: Purchia, Liz; Distefano, Nichole; Ostrander, David; Braun, Richard; Sandoval, Joni; Way, Steven; Mills, Bethany; Reynolds, Thomas; Ackerman, Joyce; Vaught, Laura; Calanog, Steve; Card, Joan; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Russo, Rebecca; Hull, George; Smith, Roxanne

Subject: Re: Winter Discharge Treatment

All - Here is the final, formatted press release. Once Shaun green-lights, we'll leave an hour for notifications and then send the release to our GKM distribution list + post on the GKM site.

CONTACT:

Press@epa.gov

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